

PATENT
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IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1 – 7. (Canceled)

8. (New) A data-providing apparatus attached to a plurality of user apparatuses over a network, said data-providing apparatus comprising:

a receiving unit configured to receive data transmitted from one or more of said user apparatus;

a user contents control unit configured to control recording of the data received by the receiving unit into a recording area corresponding to each user apparatus;

a shared contents control unit configured to control the recorded contents set to be shared by a user who transmits contents; and

a data-supplying unit configured to supply data set to be shared to the user apparatus in response to a demand made by the user apparatus.

9. (New) The data-providing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising thumbnail-generating means for generating a thumbnail corresponding to the data received by the receiving unit, and thumbnail-transmitting means for transmitting the thumbnail to a second data-processing apparatus.

PATENT
450101-03178

10. (New) The data-providing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said shared contents control unit further determines whether the data should be paid for its use, when the data is supplied to a second data-processing apparatus.

11. (New) The data-providing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said shared contents control unit further determines a fee for the data when the data is supplied to a second data-processing apparatus.

12. (New) The data-providing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said fee is an amount that the data-processing apparatus needs to pay to the second data-processing apparatus when the data is supplied to the second data-processing apparatus.

13. (New) A data-providing method, said data-providing method comprising the steps of:

receiving data transmitted from a user apparatus;
controlling a recording of the data received in the receiving step into a recording area corresponding to one of a plurality of user apparatuses;
controlling recorded contents set to be shared by a user who transmits contents;
and
supplying a data set to be shared to said user apparatus in response to a demand by said user apparatus.

PATENT
450101-03178

14. (New) A program-storing medium which stores a computer-readable program, the program performs the steps of:

receiving data transmitted from a user apparatus;

controlling a recording of the data received in the receiving step into a recording area corresponding to one of a plurality of user apparatuses;

controlling recorded contents set to be shared by a user who transmits said contents; and

supplying a data set to be shared to said user apparatus in response to a demand by said user apparatus.